

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

EUR-25 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 (ADP) W
----- 033877

P R 110834 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1528

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8322

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR-2 DAILY SITREP, MAY 10, 1973

FOL TEL SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG DTD MAY 10, 1973
RPTD FOR YOU RINFO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0484

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MOST OF MR 2 WAS PEACEFUL DURING THE REPORT-
ING PERIOD, ACCORDING TO REGIONAL BRIEFING SHEET; NORTHERN BINH DINH,
AS USUAL, BORE BRUNT OF WHAT FIGHTING THERE WAS. OF A TOTAL OF
ELEVEN INCIDENTS REPORTED, SEVEN OCCURRED IN THAT AREA, WHILE
REMAINING FOUR WERE SPLIT EVENLY BETWEEN PHU YEN, BINH THUAN,
QUANG DUC, AND KONTU M. NEARLY ALL INCIDENTS WERE TYPICAL VC
ATTACKS BY FIRE OR MININGS (SAVE TWO FIRE- FIGHTS REPORTED AS SUCH
IN BINH THUAN AND QUANG DUC), BUT THESE STAND- OFF COMMUNIST
TACTICS ARE REAPING STEADY AND APPARENTLY UNBALANCED ATTRITION IN
GVN RANKS: VC: SIX KIA; RVNAF: ONE KIA, 15 WIA. ALL ACTIONS
VERY SMALL- SCALE, BUT WE SUPPOSE THAT COMPARATIVELY LIGHT ENEMY
LOSSES MUST EXACERBATE ARVN MORALE PROBLEMS.

2. ICCS: POLOFF PLEIKU REPORTS THAT AT THE BEN HET ICCS SITE ON
MAY 6 A PRG JEEP PASSING TWO OR THREE YARDS FROM THE CANDEL HUT
DETONATED A MINE. THE MINE EXPLODED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE
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VEHICLE' S PASSAGE, HOWEVER, AND THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO THE JEEP AND NO CASUALTIES. WE ASSUME THAT THE MINE WAS AN OLD ONE AS THE PRG, GIVEN ITS ACTIONS AT DUC CO, WOULD NOT RPT NOT WANT TO REINFORCE THE ARGUMENTS OF THOSE IN THE ICCS WISHING TO EVACUATE BEN HET. INDODEL AT REGION III HEADQUARTERS, CONSISTENT WITH THEIR OVERALL ATTITUDE ON BEN HET AND AN LOC, ARE MAKING MORE OF THE INCIDENT THAN THE OTHER THREE DELEGATIONS.

3. IMPRESSION FROM VUNG TAU MEETING: MR. NGUYEN PHONG CANH, DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION FOR TUYEN DUC, TOLD OUR POLOFF THERE ON MAY 8 THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM VUNG TAU WHERE HE HAD ATTENDED A MEETING OF PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS WHICH HAD BEEN ADDRESSED BY PRESIDENT THIEU. HE STATED THAT THE DEMOCRACY PARTY (DP) WOULD LEAD THE WAY IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS ADVOCATED BY PRESIDENT THIEU. HE WAS QUITE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE DP' S FUTURE, SAYING THAT " THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE NOW ONE." MR. CANH ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DP HAD NO WISH TO BE THE ONLY POLITICAL FORCE AND HE BELIEVED (APPARENTLY FROM WHAT HE HAD LEARNED AT VUNG TAU) THAT FOUR PARTIES WOULD EMERGE: THE DP, THE FREEDOM PARTY, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE AND POSSIBLY AN AN QUANG PARTY.
ENGLE UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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